BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

Vol.7 No. 1 October, 1943.

Officers and Executive for 1943-1944:

Honorary President	-	Hon. H. G. T. Perry
President	-	Miss Jessie Hotson
Past President	-	Miss Jeannette Sargent
Vice-President	-	Miss Muriel Carruthers
Secretary	-	Miss Mabel Lanning
Treasurer	-	Miss Kathleen MacKenzie
P. N. L. A. Representative	-	Miss Hazel King

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the British Columbia Library Association took place at the Hotel Georgia, Vancouver, on May 25th, 1943. The President, Miss Jeannette Sargent, welcomed the members and called upon Mr. E. S. Robinson for a résumé of library activities in British Columbia during the past year.

The morning session concluded with a panel on 'Post-war Library Service.' Mr. J. S. Richards of the Seattle Public Library led the discussion, assisted by Mrs. Stuart Jamieson, M. L. A., Miss M. Clay of the Victoria Public Library, Miss M. Rathie, President of the School Librarians' Association, Mr. Harold Winch, M. L. A., and Captain William Black of the Canadian Army. The meeting agreed with the speakers that we librarians must go on the offensive to sell our services to the public, but that we must also educate ourselves for true public service before we can advance our profession.

At the afternoon session, Dr. W.K. Lamb led a panel on 'Book Service to the Armed Forces.' Mrs. G. A. Grant explained how the Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire handles the donations received in their book drives; Miss M. C. Holmes described the preparation of libraries sent to the services, and Captain F. C. Pilkington discussed the army's use of the books. Mr. E. S. Robinson concluded with suggestions for future improvements in the work.

Miss Laura Eberlin of the Seattle Public Library gave the meeting an interesting and enlightening history of the Friends of the Library movement in Seattle, with suggestions for forming similar groups elsewhere.

After an informal dinner, the reports of standing committees were adopted as printed in the May Bulletin. Arising from the report of the special committee to consider the constitution of the Canadian Library Council, the meeting passed a motion that the Council be requested to carry out a program of library visitation as provided for by the Rockefeller grant to the Council.

On motion of Miss Stockett, the Association decided to become affiliated with the Music Library Association.

On motion of Mr. Morison, the executive was directed to appoint a committee which should study the question of affiliation of the Association with organized labor; the committee to report to the members through the Bulletin and at the next conference.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

At the first meeting of the new executive, held on June 23rd, the minutes of the 1943 conference were read and fully discussed. The following members were appointed as chairmen of standing and special committees:

Friends of the Library	-	Miss Julia Stockett
Legislation	-	Mr. C. K. Morison
C. L. C. Constitution	-	Miss D. Salisbury
Membership	-	Miss K. MacKenzie
B. C. L. A. Constitution	-	Miss Anne Smith
Public Relations	-	Miss M. Clay
Government Documents	-	Mrs. C. R. MacNamee
Publicity	-	Miss Margaret Black
Employment	-	Miss Georgiana Wilson
Bulletin	-	Miss Eleanor Mercer
Library Service to the Forces	-	Miss B. Greenwood
Affiliation With Labor	-	Miss Irene McAfee

The second executive meeting took place on August 3rd. Routine business was transacted, and a letter to the Canadian Library Council was drafted in accordance with the resolution passed at the conference.

On October 15th Miss Hotson reported to the executive on the Union of B. C. Municipalities convention, at which the Union approved, with minor amendments, the draft bill providing for library certification in British Columbia. The executive drafted a covering letter to be sent to Honorable W. C. T. Perry, Minister of Education, asking that the bill be introduced in the Legislature. A letter to the Canadian Library Council was also drafted, giving specific suggestions for expenditure of the Rockefeller library visitation grant. Final arrangements were made for sending on professional publications to small British Columbia libraries who are unable to subscribe.

DOCUMENTS The Documents Committee has compiled the following list of interesting documents published during the past six months, which might be of use in local libraries:

"The Amphibians of British Columbia," by G. Clifford Carl. British Columbia - Provincial museum, Handbook No. 2. 1943. 62 p.
A well-illustrated guide to the salamanders, frogs, etc., of British Columbia.

"A community survey for the Brechin elementary school." British Columbia. Dept. of education. 1943. 9 p.
A complete survey of the community as to occupations, community resources, club activities, etc., and their application to the school life.

"Demobilization and readjustment." Report of the conference on postwar readjustment of civilian and military personnel. United States. National resources planning board. 1943. 106 p.
A valuable contribution to this subject.

"Education reconstruction." Great Britain. Board of education. 1943. 36 p.
This survey contains not only an interesting summary of what needs to be done to reform the British educational system but also gives some valuable historical background.

"Effect of incentive payments on hourly earnings." United States. Labor dept. Bureau of labor statistics. Bulletin no. 742. 1943. 9 p.
A statistical survey of the machinery industry in the U. S.

"Extraction of rubber from plants," by Muriel E. Whalley. Canada. National research council. N.R.C. no. 1071. 1942. 19 p.
A technical treatise covering the actual methods of obtaining rubber from various types of plants.

"Fifty edible plants of British Columbia," by G. A. Hardy. British Columbia. Provincial museum. Handbook no. 1. 1942. 54 p. Brief descriptions of the plants, with a sketch which should make them easily identified, habitats and food uses.

"Post-war forest policy." Report by H. M. Forestry commissioners. Great Britain. H. M. Stationary office. 1943. 114 p. Although the problems of English forestry are considerably different from those of British Columbia, there is a great deal of interesting and valuable information in this report.

"Report on the work of the National Defense Mediation Board, March 19, 1941 to January 12, 1942." United States. Labor dept. Bureau of labor statistics. 1942. 285 p.
This deals with a very timely subject and gives not only statistical information, but also actual case histories.

"Student cooperatives in the United States, 1941." United States. Labor dept. Bureau of labor statistics, Bulletin no. 740. 1943. 42 p.
This contains not only statistical information, but also valuable suggestions for the management of student coops.

"Wartime canning: jams and jellies." Canada. Agriculture dept. Consumer section, marketing service. Publication no. 751, Household bulletin no. 20. 1943. 15 p.
Useful recipes.

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Northwest Chapter of the Music Library Association, with which the B. C. Library Association has recently affiliated, is anxious to obtain individual members from British Columbia. This organization is working for the establishment of music collections in libraries throughout the northwest, and for the appointment of music librarians to administer them.

The Music Library Association has contributed substantially to the solution of such technical problems as: cataloging music and records, periodical indexing, and listing the resources of music libraries. Of particular interest is their publication "The public library music department," which gives extensive suggestions for organizing such a department.

The annual dues are $2.00 for the membership year of September 1st to August 31st. Members receive the Association's publication, Notes. The chairman of the Northwest Chapter is Miss Rozella Knox, Library Association of Portland, Portland 5, Oregon.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

The Committee is pleased to report that the proposed Bill for a Board for Certification of Librarians won the unanimous approval of the Union of B. C. Municipalities at its convention held at Port Alberni in September. It was endorsed with one amendment which would leave the selection of its Secretary to the discretion of the Board, rather than require that the Secretary of the Public Library Commission fill that position ex officio. The President of the B. C. Library Association and the Chairman of the Legislation Committee were in attendance at both the convention and the meeting of the Resolutions Committee which preceded it, and various opportunities were taken to discuss the proposal privately with delegates. Miss Hotson presented an admirable brief on the question which was well received by the convention. The discussion which followed was taken as an opportunity by some of the better informed delegates to commend heartily the services administered by the librarians of the Province. It is to be noted that objection to the proposed legislation was removed only after much reiteration that it was not mandatory in any way that could affect the purse of the tax-payer. The support of the Minister of Education is now being sought for introduction of the Bill at the next session of the Legislature.

Success has not attended the Committee's attempt to have the Public Libraries Act amended to require that the librarian of the public library be ex officio secretary of its board. Although the Minister had expressed his disapproval of such a requirement, subsequently to the resolution at the last convention directing this Committee to take up the question, he was asked to grant an interview for its discussion. In response to his suggestion that the matter could well be presented by correspondence, the Committee submitted a letter pointing out the importance of the librarian, as administrative and executive head of the library, being continuously in the closest possible touch with all proceedings of the library board. The Committee's opinion was stated that this consideration was of such importance that the attendance of the librarian at all meetings should not be left to the wish of the board. The Minister, in his reply, maintained the position that the expediency of such an arrangement should be left to the discretion of the appointed board.

At the request of the Committee the Public Library Commission has undertaken to frame an amendment to the Act defining the term 'resident' - a problem that has given rise to a good deal of trouble in the matter of free library service.

The question has been briefly and informally discussed of the possible advantage of a much simplified Public Libraries Act, such as those in force in other parts of America, that would lay down powers, duties and responsibilities in general terms, leaving details of organization to regulation and alteration, as circumstances require, by the Public Library Commission. This would remove delays and difficulties involved in frequent and minor amendments to the Act in order to meet new and changing conditions. There are certain objections nevertheless to seeking such a change, and no position has been taken by the Committee one way or the other. The question is mentioned here as one worthy of some thought by librarians.

C. K. Morison,
Chairman.

AFFILIATION WITH LABOR

The Trade Union Committee of the B. C. Library Association held its first meeting on Saturday, October 16th, in the Vancouver Public Library. Preliminary discussion showed that there has been some confusion among members regarding the subject of the investigation to be made. The Committee is concerned exclusively with the affiliation of the B. C. Library Association with one of the two trade union congresses in Canada, and not with the organization of the members of the staffs of individual libraries as separate unions.

The Committee was interested to hear that Mr. Drummond Wren, Secretary of the Workers' Educational Association of Canada, will be in Vancouver the first week of November. Mr. Wren is interested in trade union organization of professional bodies, and an open meeting will be held on Friday evening, November 5th, in Vancouver. Teachers, social workers, librarians and other groups are invited to attend to discuss both sides of the question. The place will be announced later.

Irene McAfee,
Chairman.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership fees for 1943-1944 are now due. Please forward fees to Kathleen MacKenzie, Kitsilano Branch, Vancouver Public Library.

Yearly salary	Dues
Up to $1200	$ .50
$1200 to $2400	1.00
$2400 and up	1.50

Further copies of the Bulletin will not be sent to delinquent members.

NEW WESTMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Amy Hutcheson has obtained particularly gratifying results in building up the patronage of the children's room. July and August circulation figures for her department are larger, each, than any month, winter or summer, for the past three years. Her Summer Reading Club was a great success.

The library is doing an increasing amount of reference work for city firms, and Mr. MacRae is helping two local plants to establish their own technical libraries.

Miss Cameron and Miss Hutcheson are carrying out a long-needed revision of the cataloguing and classification of the whole library.

The library is feeling the need for new space. The present newspaper room is to be divided so as to give room for the overflowing circulation stacks.

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

It was with genuine regret that the Public Library Commission was advised of the retirement of Mr. John Ridington from this body, on which he has given long and faithful service to the lasting benefit of the people of British Columbia. Although Mr. Ridington's own particular field was college libraries, his professional background and experience in journalism and other fields of endeavour equipped him in a peculiar way for service on a body that has to do with the correlation of library service with public reading interests and needs. Future generations will have reason to thank Mr. Ridington for the realism with which he always approached library problems and programs. There is general gratification that Mr. Ridington's successor on the Public Library Commission is his successor as University Librarian, Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, who has already had wide experience on the Commission as its Superintendent and Secretary from 1936 to 1940.

A major project that the Commission has in hand is the investigation of provincial institutional library service throughout British Columbia. Following a preliminary survey made by the Superintendent last year, there has developed considerable interest in this question on the part of governmental authorities, and the Commission has been given full authority to make whatever investigation it deems advisable and to bring in a full report.

In the meantime, and on the Commission's recommendation, the Attorney-General's Department has made available funds for the re-organization and improvement of library service at Oakalla Prison Farm. Under the Commission's direction this work is being carried on by Miss Julia C. Stockett of the Vancouver Public Library, who has had considerable experience in this field. The library in the Women's Ward is being re-organized in a way that should make it a model for this type of library service. The Men's Gaol is in pressing need of betterment, and a budget is being prepared for the future improvement and maintenance of library service in the institution as a whole. Commissioner T. W. S. Parsons, Superintendent of Gaols, and the members of his staff at Oakalla are keenly interested in this development.

Other material evidence of practical interest in institutional library service is apparent at the Vancouver Unit of the Tuberculosis Division of the Provincial Board of Health, where patients have for some years benefited from an arrangement whereby library service has been administered by members of the Vancouver Public Library staff at the expense of Provincial authorities and the Kwannon Club. The Victoria Unit of the same Division has entered into an agreement for similar service from the Victoria Public Library. Investigators are meeting with enthusiasm on every side as to the possibilities of what can be done with effective library service in hospitals, infirmaries and gaols.

At the October meeting of the Commission the Superintendent reported on his recent inspection of the North-Central District, which is served from its Depot at Prince George under the direction of

Miss Sargent. Operations in this area are expanding and there is urgent need of better accommodation, particularly in view of expansion that will accompany development of the demobilization scheme made possible by the Provincial gift of a million acres of arable land in this territory for the use of returned soldiers.

The cooperative school library service, which has been developed in cooperation with the Department of Education and the School Inspectors as Official Trustees, is an outstandingly useful feature of Commission activities in this area. The importance of this work is enhanced by the common difficulty experienced in trying to improve the reading interests of adults whose cultural tastes are too frequently circumscribed by the pulps, the press, and the pornography of Hollywood.

Mr. Morison also reports widespread evidence amongst schools in this area, large and small, of the need of a Director of School Libraries, as frequently recommended by the Commission and by the Association. Teachers and inspectors alike commonly lack the time, training or facilities that are needed for the best and most economical selection and purchase of new books for the schools' own libraries. A Director of School Libraries would find ample scope for activity even without increased appropriations for the purchase of books, and would be welcomed by teachers, inspectors and school boards throughout the Province.

In its 1940 report on "Libraries in British Columbia," and in subsequent recommendations as to library service in specific communities, the Commission has envisaged the development of the school in rural areas and smaller centres as the cultural community centre for young and old. It is much gratified at now having the opportunity to assist in such a development planned by Mr. S. J. Graham, Principal of Creston Valley Junior-Senior High School. Mr. Graham's plan is to make his school library, which has been built up from scratch in the last five years, a combined school and public library, with the cooperation of the Village Council and local organizations. He has asked the Commission for advice and assistance and the latter has offered, subject to certain conditions, to provide selected new books up to the amount of 200, which may periodically be exchanged for other new books as preceding ones are 'read out' by the local community, or as they otherwise prove unsuitable as part of a permanent collection. Mr. Graham reports: "The need for Community Library facilities is greatly felt in this district at this time." A hopeful sign and only one of many. It behooves the library-minded to rise to the opportunity. The public wants public library service and we must give a voice to its wants - <u>and keep on giving it continuously</u> until its voice is heard and its wants are supplied.

<u>VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY</u>

One branch and one station have been opened recently in Vancouver. The branch library is located in the building used formerly as the Municipal Hall in Point Grey and is open four days per week. 2600 volumes were ready for the

opening, which was done officially by His Worship Mayor Cornett on October 1st. Mrs. Van der Burg (née Choate) is the librarian, assisted by Mrs. Christie, formerly of the Calgary Public Library.

The station, opened October 4th, is located in the Hastings Community Centre on Hastings Street East, near the Exhibition. This station is for children only and is open two afternoons per week. It opened with 1,000 volumes.

Kitsilano Branch is now open each week day except Wednesday, making the opening hours 45 per week. After being closed completely for one year and partially closed for the last ten years, this branch now approximates its original time of openings.

For many years the Reference Department of the main library has been greatly handicapped by the lack of a catalogue of its own collection and by being on a different floor from the main catalogue, located in the Circulation Department. Early in 1933 it was decided to move the main catalogue to the Reference Department and make a new catalogue for Circulation listing books in that department. A start was made and then the depression hit us, and for eight years only a few thousand cards could be made each year. About two years ago the Catalogue Department was given extra help to permit the work on the new catalogue to proceed. At the end of June 1943, exactly ten years after the work had been halted by the depression, the move was made. Now the main union catalogue of all books in the entire system is in the Reference Department while each department, division and branch has a catalogue of its own books.

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

The Vancouver School Librarians' Association has begun its winter meetings, and plans for an active season are under way. The following are officers for 1943-1944:

President	-	Miss E. Tufts
Vice-President	-	Miss O. Hood
Corresponding Secretary	-	Miss Burroughs
Recording Secretary	-	Miss M. Carruthers
Treasurer	-	Miss M. Rathie

JUDGE HOWAY

British Columbia has lost one of her most eminent citizens in the recent passing of His Honour, Judge Howay. Resident in New Westminster since the age of three, he was prominent in every phase of civic life -- as well as being County Court Judge for thirty years, he had also served on the City Council and the School Board, and on the Public Library Board since its inception.

His studies in British Columbia history earned him the well-deserved title of 'dean of British Columbia historians,' and the admiration of scholars all over the continent.

Judge Howay's keen personal interest in the development and management of the New Westminster Public Library should be remembered by librarians with gratitude for his long service. In 1929, in memory of their daughter, he and Mrs. Howay presented to the library a gift of books to the value of $1000; this is known as the 'Undine Howay Memorial Collection,' and still forms an important part of the reference and Canadiana sections of the library.

PERSONAL NOTES

Bell: Mr. Donald Bell, of the Public Library Commission staff, has joined the forces. Mrs. T. Golding has taken his place.

Creelman: Miss Margaret Creelman and Miss Arabel Peirson of the Circulation Department of the Vancouver Public Library joined the W. R. C. N. S. as navy librarians. Miss Creelman is now stationed at Halifax, and Miss Peirson at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

Dodds: Mrs. George Dodds (née Frances Madeley) is among the Canadians being repatriated from Hong Kong on the exchange ship 'Gripsholm'. Mrs. Dodds was formerly in the Victoria Public Library. Miss Elizabeth Madeley of the Vancouver Public Library is a sister.

Donelly: Miss Margaret Donelly resigned from the Vancouver Public Library, Boys' and Girls' Department, to enter Library School at the University of Toronto.

Ellingham: Miss Joan Ellingham of the Reference Department of the Vancouver Public Library left at the beginning of October to join the R. C. A. F. (W. D.) .

Gould: Mrs. H. C. Gould (Edith Corson), formerly head of the Glen Lake Sanitorium Library Staff under the Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Public Libraries, has joined the Victoria Public Library staff as a part-time member; she is instituting hospital service for the tubercular patients at the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria.

Harvey: Miss Mary Harvey of the Fine Arts Division of the Vancouver Public Library is leaving Vancouver soon to take the post of librarian in the United Kingdom Information Services in Ottawa.

Heaton: Miss Eileen Heaton of the Cataloguing Department, University of B. C. Library, left in August to join the R. C. A. F. (W. D.). She was replaced by Mrs. M. Alexander.

Hobbs: Constance Hobbs, formerly Cataloguing and Circulation Department Assistant, was married last month to Sydney Pettit, of the Victoria College staff.

Hockey: Another recruit to the forces is Mrs. Dorothy Hockey of the Vancouver Public Library, through her marriage in June to Pilot Officer E. L. Fearman, R. C. A. F.

Hoggan: Miss Isabel Hoggan of Vancouver, a graduate of U. B. C. in Arts and of the Toronto University in Library Science, recently commenced work as an assistant in the North-Central District of the Public Library Commission, in Prince George.

Howieson: Miss Margaret Howieson has recently been appointed to the staff of the Victoria Public Library as Cataloguing and Circulation Department Assistant. Miss Howieson, whose home is in Prince George, graduated in 1942 from U. B. C., and in 1943 from the University of Toronto Library School.

Hutchins: Miss Thyra Hutchins of the Circulation Department of the Vancouver Public Library was married on August 12th to Rev. Eric Munn, and they are now living in Fernie.

Lockett: Miss Connie Lockett of the Order and Catalogue Departments of the Vancouver Public Library resigned at the end of August to go into training in the hospital.

MacLachlan: Miss Marion MacLachlan has joined the staff of the U. B. C. Library as clerical assistant in the Circulation Department.

Maitland: Miss Jessie Maitland of the Vancouver Public Library has resigned to join the R. C. A. F. (W. D.)

Matheson: Miss Joan Matheson, who has for some time been a member of the staff of the Victoria Public Library, is attending Victoria College this year, and working part-time in the Circulation Department.

Meredith: Miss Olive Meredith, a 1943 graduate of the University of Toronto Library School, has been appointed to the Boys' and Girls' Department of the Vancouver Public Library, and is to take charge of stations.

Musto: Mrs. Nellie Musto, formerly Children's Librarian at Bath Public Library, England, has been appointed to the Boys' and Girls' Department of the Vancouver Public Library.

Rendall: Miss Mary Rendall, formerly of the Reference Department of the Toronto Public Library, has joined the Circulation Department of the Vancouver Public Library.

Stirling: Miss Isabel Stirling, who was in charge of stations in the Boys' and Girls' Department of the Vancouver Public Library, has resigned to join the W. R. C. N. S.

Sturdy: Miss Edith Sturdy has left teaching to work in the Circulation Department of the Vancouver Public Library.

Another number of the Bulletin will be published early in the new year. Members of the B. C. Library Association are invited to contribute news notes and items of interest to other libraries. Such material should be sent by January 10, 1944, to the editor: Miss Eleanor Mercer, University of B. C. Library, Vancouver, B.C.